

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 11, 2010

1:00 p.m.

**Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Telephone Conference Call**

Members Present:

Janet L. Adams	Timothy P. Cole
Randy Feenstra	Greg Forristall
Crystal Ford	Bob Donley
Terrence Martin	Fred Moore
Herman Quirmbach	Roger Utman
Cindy Winckler	

Members Absent:

Robert Denson	Michelle Durand-Adams
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Staff Present:

Keith Greiner
Karen Misjak
Carolyn Small

Guests Present:

Wanda Boatwright, Ashford University
Duane Ferguson, Legislative Services Agency
David Heflin, Colorado Technical University

Legal Counsel Present:

David VanCompernelle, Assistant Attorney General

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met by telephone conference call for a special meeting on June 11, 2010. Vice Chair Tim Cole called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

Postsecondary Registration – Colorado Technical University

At the last Commission meeting, Dr. Greiner and Mr. VanCompernelle were asked to provide information pertaining to Colorado Technical University's application for postsecondary registration. Mr. VanCompernelle said he reviewed the Commission's instructions and the statute pertaining to site-specific approval, but the statute was not clear. He said historically the Commission has required site-specific approval from the Higher Learning Commission and it is consistent with past practices for the Commission to require that level of approval from the Higher Learning Commission. Mr. VanCompernelle said the Higher Learning Commission's procedure provides for a site-specific approval. The only time there is a "grey area" is with a smaller school such as Colorado Technical University. In the absence of site-specific approval, the Commissioners have put instructions or milestones in place that could be approved subject to meeting those instructions or milestones.

Dr. Greiner reviewed past conditions placed on application approvals. Western Illinois University applied to open a location in Iowa at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport. In their final action, the Commissioners approved the registration subject to Western Illinois University receiving a site-specific approval from the Higher Learning Commission for Davenport, and specified that during that period of time, the University was limited to offering fewer than five programs and the time-based limitation had to be met. At the completion of the time period, the Higher Learning Commission had approved the University and the Commission issued the University a letter of approval.

Mr. David Heflin, Colorado Technical University, indicated he was on the conference call and available for questions.

Mr. Donley asked staff to read the motion, as approved, for Western Illinois University. Dr. Greiner read the following motion, approved at the May 21, 2009 meeting:

Commissioner Cole moved to approve Western Illinois University to offer a Master of Arts in Museum Studies Program at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa, for 180 days, to allow the University to seek formal program approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. During the 180 days no more than four classes are to be offered at the Figge Museum. The approval shall be extended to four years if the University receives approval from the Higher Learning Commission within the 180 Day period. Commissioner Utman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Donley asked Mr. Heflin if he had read the motion pertaining to Western Illinois University. Mr. Heflin responded that he had not, but said that Colorado Technical University would accept similar language.

Chair Adams asked if the University was offering just one class. Mr. Heflin said one class is Criminal Justice and one is Business Administration. He said the University would offer one class for each of those programs on the ground in Sioux City. Mr. Heflin said it would take the University some time to implement the Sioux City courses because approval from the Higher Learning Commission would be necessary prior to hiring staff and faculty and implementing marketing.

Commissioner Winckler asked if the 180-day timeframe starts at the time that Colorado Technical University applied for registration. Dr. Greiner responded that the June 15 (180-day) deadline for approval is based on Iowa law and is based on the date the application is filed with the Commission. Commissioner Cole said that Colorado Technical University is proposing to offer a B.S. degree in Business Administration and a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice. There are multiple classes within each of these degree programs.

Mr. Heflin said the University would offer one on-ground program for each degree and two on-line courses. There will be a small number of courses offered on ground in Sioux City.

Mr. VanCompernelle asked, if the University grows or expands those programs, would the University return to the Commission for further approval, and Mr. Heflin responded affirmatively.

Chair Adams said the motion approving Western Illinois University spoke to classes rather than programs. She asked if staff had received any comments or feedback about the proposal from Colorado Technical University. Dr. Greiner responded that feedback received from Briar Cliff University through the Coordinating Council listserv indicated they had concerns about having another program being offered in the Sioux City area.

Commissioner Donley suggested that Commissioners use language for the motion that was used for Western Illinois University and approve the two degree programs in Criminal Justice and Business Administration.

Dr. Greiner read the past motion, substituting language relevant to Colorado Technical University.

Motion: Commissioner Donley moved to approve Colorado Technical University to offer a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice program in Sioux City, Iowa, for 180 days, to allow the University to seek

formal program approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The approval shall be extended to four years if the University receives approval from the Higher Learning Commission within the 180 day period.

Discussion: Commissioner Winckler asked for clarification as to whether they were voting on two courses or two degree programs. Ms. Misjak responded that the University was requesting to offer two classes – one for the Criminal Justice degree program and one for the Business Administration program – and these classes will fall within the 180-day time frame for approval by the Higher Learning Commission. Mr. Heflin said the action approved for Western Illinois University allowed no more than four classes. Dr. Greiner said that the language for the motion on the floor was based on what Colorado Technical University had requested – two classes, one for each degree program. Dr. Heflin responded that the University will offer two courses per quarter, and he asked if the Higher Learning Commission approval is per quarter or for the entire academic year.

Ms. Misjak emphasized that Commissioners are trying to provide approval from the State of Iowa and the University can then seek approval by the Higher Learning Commission to allow the University to operate in Iowa for four years.

Mr. Cole suggested that the language remain “two programs” (as stated) and the University can then offer whatever classes are needed in the program sequence.

Second: Commissioner Martin seconded the motion.

Vote: A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed on a vote of six in favor, and one opposed. Those voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Ford, Cole, Utman, Martin, Moore, and Donley. Commissioner Adams voted in opposition of the motion.

Senator Quirmbach said this action brings up the question of whether the Commission or the Higher Learning Commission approves registration first, and

it emphasizes the need to standardize the procedure either by statute or regulation. He also noted the distinction between on-line or on-site education, and said that Colorado Technical University has a presence in Iowa only through on-line education. He said that on-line education is becoming popular and profitable, which should spur re-thinking the registration process, including the Commission's role. Commissioner Quirnbach emphasized the need for consumer protection and accountability for government funds; regardless of whether the education is provided on-line or on-site (physical presence will become less relevant in the future). He encouraged Commissioners to focus on the quality of courses being offered to Iowans.

Ms. Misjak told Commissioners that Dr. Greiner will retire from the Commission later in June, and said that Carolyn Small will assume the duties for postsecondary registration.

Ms. Misjak announced that LeRoy Wade, who manages postsecondary registration for the State of Missouri, will spend June 16-17 with Commission staff to review the Code of Iowa and Administrative Rules pertaining to postsecondary registration. Staff will then be able to determine if there is a need for Code or Rule changes. Ms. Small is researching the postsecondary registration process in other states. Ms. Misjak asked for Commissioners' comments and feedback, and said staff will address all past concerns. Commissioner Winckler asked Ms. Misjak to provide Commissioners with her list of past concerns so Commissioners can review and provide additional feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



JANET ADAMS, CHAIR



TIMOTHY COLE, VICE CHAIR